CLAIMS:

1.   Method for dividing user storage space of an optical disc into one or more storage sections where a specific application is allowed to write and one or more sections where said application is not allowed to write;

the method comprising the steps of:

defining one or more availability parameter(s) which define(s) location and/or extent of at least one application-allowed storage section.

2.   Method according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said one or more availability parameter(s) is(are) incorporated in a standard format for the application concerned.

3.   Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein at least some of said one or more availability parameter(s) is(are) variable parameters whose value(s) is(are) stored in a predetermined area or location of storage space of the disc.

4.   Method according to any of claims 1-3, wherein at least one of said availability parameter(s) defines a borderline address between an application-allowed storage section and an application-forbidden storage section.

5.   Method according to any of claims 1-4, wherein at least one of said availability parameter(s) defines an extremity address of an application-allowed storage section.

6.   Method according to any of claims 1-5, wherein at least one of said availability parameter(s) defines a length of an application-allowed storage section.

7.   User-writeable optical disc having user storage space divided into one or more storage sections where a specific application is allowed to write and one or more sections where said application is not allowed to write;

the optical disc comprising a predetermined area or location of storage space where one or more availability parameter(s) is(are) stored which define(s) location and/or extent of at least one application-allowed storage section.

5   8.   User-writeable optical disc according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said availability parameter(s) defines a borderline address between an application-allowed storage section and an application-forbidden storage section.

9.   User-writeable optical disc according to any of claims 7-8, wherein at least
10 one of said availability parameter(s) defines an extremity address of an application-allowed storage section.

10.   User-writeable optical disc according to any of claims 7-9, wherein at least one of said availability parameter(s) defines a length of an application-allowed storage
15 section.

11.   User-writeable optical disc according to any of claims 7-10, wherein the values of said parameters are stored as a table in a predetermined area or location of storage space of the disc.

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12.   User-writeable optical disc according to claim 11, wherein said table contains at least one entry defining the length of the table.

13.   Method of writing information to an optical disc comprising the steps of:
25 – determining the value of the availability parameter(s);
    – determining at least one predefined application-allowed storage section on the basis of said availability parameter(s);
    – consulting application-specific recording location information regarding location and extent of recorded areas;
30 – selecting, within said application-allowed storage section, free area suitable for accommodating the information to be written, taking into account said recorded areas as determined by said application-specific recording location information;
    – writing said information within said free area thus selected.

14.   Method of writing information to an optical disc according to any of claims 7-12, comprising the steps of:

- reading the availability parameter(s) from disc;

- determining at least one predefined application-allowed storage section on the basis of said availability parameter(s);

- consulting application-specific recording location information regarding location and extent of recorded areas;

- selecting, within said application-allowed storage section, free area suitable for accommodating the information to be written, taking into account said recorded areas as determined by said application-specific recording location information;

- writing said information within said free area thus selected.

15.   Method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein writing to an address outside said application-allowed storage section is avoided.

16.   Method according to claim 14, wherein, if it appears that the size of the free area is insufficient to accommodate the information to be written, the following steps are taken:

- determining whether the application-forbidden storage section outside said application-allowed storage section, either by itself or in combination with the free area already found, contains a storage space portion suitable and sufficient for accommodating the information to be written;

- amending at least one of said availability parameter(s) such as to increase the size of said application-allowed storage section.

17.   Apparatus, comprising a signal processing system capable of communicating with a disc drive system of a disc drive apparatus, the signal processing system being designed for executing a method according to any of claims 1-6 or 13-16.